

CITY OF



WHITEHORSE

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN**



2008 - 2010

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1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT OF THIS PLAN

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Domestic Animal Management Plan has been developed in partnership with the community it impacts on. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the City of Whitehorse community, key stakeholders and peak bodies to ensure the Plan not only reflects community issues but also will enhance pet ownership and the services the City provides in this area.

The Community Survey has been pivotal in the development of the Plan and the community inspired initiatives.

The State Government has amended provisions of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 (the Act) to further improve animal management in Victoria. Councils in Victoria are now required by legislation to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan (Plan). The City of Whitehorse supports this strategic approach and has developed this plan in accordance with the legislative guidelines.

The City of Whitehorse's Plan has sought to balance the competing needs of animal owners, the broader community and the animals that share people's lives. Council also recognises the positive health and wellbeing outcomes that arise from pet ownership. The programs and activities set out in the plan have been developed with the aim to encourage more people to enjoy the pleasure derived from animal companionship, within a framework of responsible ownership.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of the plan is to improve animal management in the City of Whitehorse in general. The Plan is to develop and implement a range of approaches that will:

- Establish a formalised approach to domestic animal management within the City of Whitehorse;
- Educate our community about responsible pet ownership;
- Ensure satisfactory levels of compliance within community and legislation expectations are established and maintained;
- Maximise the benefits to the community that may be gained by owning companion animals; and
- To raise the profile and importance of effective animal management.

1.3 PROCESS APPLIED IN DEVELOPING THIS PLAN

This plan was developed in consultation with Council Officers, welfare groups, Councillors and members of the public. During its development, the working party surveyed residents of the municipality and local vets, invited public submissions and sought comment from animal welfare groups and peak bodies. Appendix B contains information submitted by these groups and others.

The consultation process occurred in the later half of 2007 and included:

- Advertisements in local papers seeking submissions and input;
- Promotion at Councils Customer Service Centres and on the internet;
- Sought the views of dog and cat clubs, peak body associations, welfare agencies, other interested groups and vets located in the municipality;
- Surveying the local community;
- Surveying visitors to Whitehorse;
- Sought input from other departments from within Council; and
- Benchmarking against other Councils.

The results of the consultation with the community, discussions with animal management groups, together with research undertaken by Council staff form the basis for the development of the Plan.

Council, having considered the views of the community, reports from Council officers and final public submissions, adopted, by resolution, the Domestic Animal Management Plan as a working document.

1.4 THE CITY OF WHITEHORSE – DEMOGRAPHICS AND COUNCIL PROFILE

There are approximately 151,000 people in the City. The population peaked in the early 80's and has been declining since. This is despite an increase in the number of dwellings. There are now 61,000 residential dwellings. The City has a high proportion of elderly people (18.5% over the age of 60, compared to 14.7% for Melbourne Statistical District).

The residential population is ageing and contains more people over the age of 50 compared to the Melbourne average. This, in conjunction with reducing household size from 2.8 people in 1991 to an estimated 2.42 in 2011, is resulting in population decline.

Despite over 400 dwelling commencements per year over the past five years, Department of Infrastructure projections indicate the population of the City of Whitehorse will fall at a rate of approximately 1% per year over the next fifteen years. By 2011, the estimated population will be less than 139,000 even though there is a projected increase of 3200 dwellings in the City over the same period.

Reducing household size is a metropolitan wide phenomenon. This is more extreme in Whitehorse by the lifecycle stage of many residents. Many settled here as 'home starters' in the 1950's and 1960's and now these households have reached the 'empty nest stage' where adult children are leaving home. This trend is likely to continue at an increased rate over the next two decades whereby there will be substantial declines in 0 to 4 and 25 to 39 year olds and significant increases in 50 to 64 year olds.

27 % of our residents were born overseas. Greece, Italy, China and Vietnam are the major non-English speaking nations where new residents come from. The United Kingdom and New Zealand were the major sources for English speaking migrants to Whitehorse.

Major trends are a small decrease in the number of new residents from English speaking countries and an increase in people arriving from Asia.

Highlights of the municipality are:

- 8,000+ businesses;

- 1000+ community groups;
- Over 1000 building and planning applications a year;
- 200+ Council employees; and
- 64.3 square kilometers.

The City of Whitehorse features:

- Arts and cultural facilities including the Whitehorse Centre, Schwerkolt Cottage, Box Hill Community Arts Centre, and Box Hill Town Hall.
- Leisure facilities such as Aqualink Nunawading, Aqualink Box Hill and Morack Public Golf Course.
- Over 335 parks, reserves and open space areas plus natural treasures such as Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.
- A diverse mix of large shopping complexes and smaller village shopping strips. The Mega Mile precinct along Whitehorse Road at Blackburn, Nunawading and Mitcham is the busiest “bulky goods” retail shopping precinct in Australia.
- A richly diverse community with almost 30% of the community born overseas. Box Hill offers a range of specialty Asian restaurants, produce, stores and festivals.
- An exciting calendar of community events including Australia Day celebrations (January 26), the Annual Spring Festival (October), Summer Music Series (February-March), Sustainable Living Week and Carols by Candlelight (December).
- Major medical facilities including Box Hill Hospital and Epworth Eastern Hospital.
- Leading educational institutions such as Box Hill Institute and Deakin University - with a large population of 39,000 students attending.
- An extensive public transport network with trains, buses and trams servicing the community.
- The largest high technology precinct in eastern Melbourne, placing it at the cutting edge of the telecommunications, multimedia and information technology industry.

1.4.1 THE COMMUNITY

Whitehorse’s estimated resident population is 151,233, an increase of 1880 people from 2005. Population forecasts to 2031 based on the 2006 Census are currently being updated and will be available on Council’s website by mid-2008.

In total, 21% of residents are aged between 0 and 17 while 22.3% are aged 60 years and over. The largest changes in age structure from 2001 to 2006 were in age groups 35 to 49 years with an increase of 1742 people bringing the total percentage to 22%; 18 to 24 years increasing by 683 people bringing the total percentage to 9.7%; 85 years and over increasing by 603 people to 2.4%.

More than 29% of the population were born overseas and almost 23% were from a non-English speaking background. China is the dominant non-English speaking country of birth in Whitehorse, with 4% of the population, or 5781 people, born there. The top 10 overseas birthplaces in order are China, United Kingdom, Malaysia, India, Greece, Vietnam, Italy, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

A total of 56.4% of Whitehorse’s overseas born population arrived before 1991 and 20.7% arrived during or after 2001. A total of 1154 people arrived in Australia in 2006 and decided to call Whitehorse home.

A total of 27.4% of households in Whitehorse earn an income of \$1500 a week or more, while 17.8% earn less than \$400 a week. The largest percentage share, per individual category, was 10.2% (5477 households) earning between \$1000 to \$1199.

Statistics show that a larger proportion of individuals volunteer for an organisation or group in Whitehorse when compared to statistics for the overall Melbourne area. In total, 20.6% of Whitehorse residents undertook volunteer work in the community, compared to 15.6% in overall Melbourne.

A total of 38,822 families live in Whitehorse, with close to half (18,572 or 47.8%) having children. Of these, 12,100 couples (31.2%) have children aged 15 and under. There are 13,986 couples without children (36%) and 5393 one-parent families (13.9%).

More than 86% of households (47,860) own at least one car. Of these, 36.3% own one car, 37% own two cars and 12.9% own three cars or more.

In 2006, there were 42,411 households who lived in a separate house in Whitehorse, while a further 12,638 households lived in a medium density dwelling and 401 in high-density flats or apartments.

Almost 41% (22,687) of Whitehorse households own their home. A further 32% (17,788 households) are currently purchasing their home, while another 21% (11,872 households) choose to rent.

A total of 36,260 households in Whitehorse (65.3%) are connected to the Internet, with the majority of these connections (46.6%) being via broadband.

1.5 DOMESTIC ANIMAL STATISTICS AND DATA

Key Statistics

Dog Population as at 1 July 2007:		14,368
Cat Population as at 1 July 2007:		7,321
Other matters	City of Whitehorse 06/07yr	Like Councils (av.) 06/07yr
No. of EFT Animal Management Officers	2.5	3.1
Hours training per year	38	90
No. of Declared Dogs	16	33
No. of Dog Attack Prosecutions completed 06/07	2	15
No. of Successful Dog Attack Prosecutions 06/07	2	15
No. of impoundments (dogs)	476 (278 Council, 198 public)	738
% of impounded dogs returned to owner	73%	60%

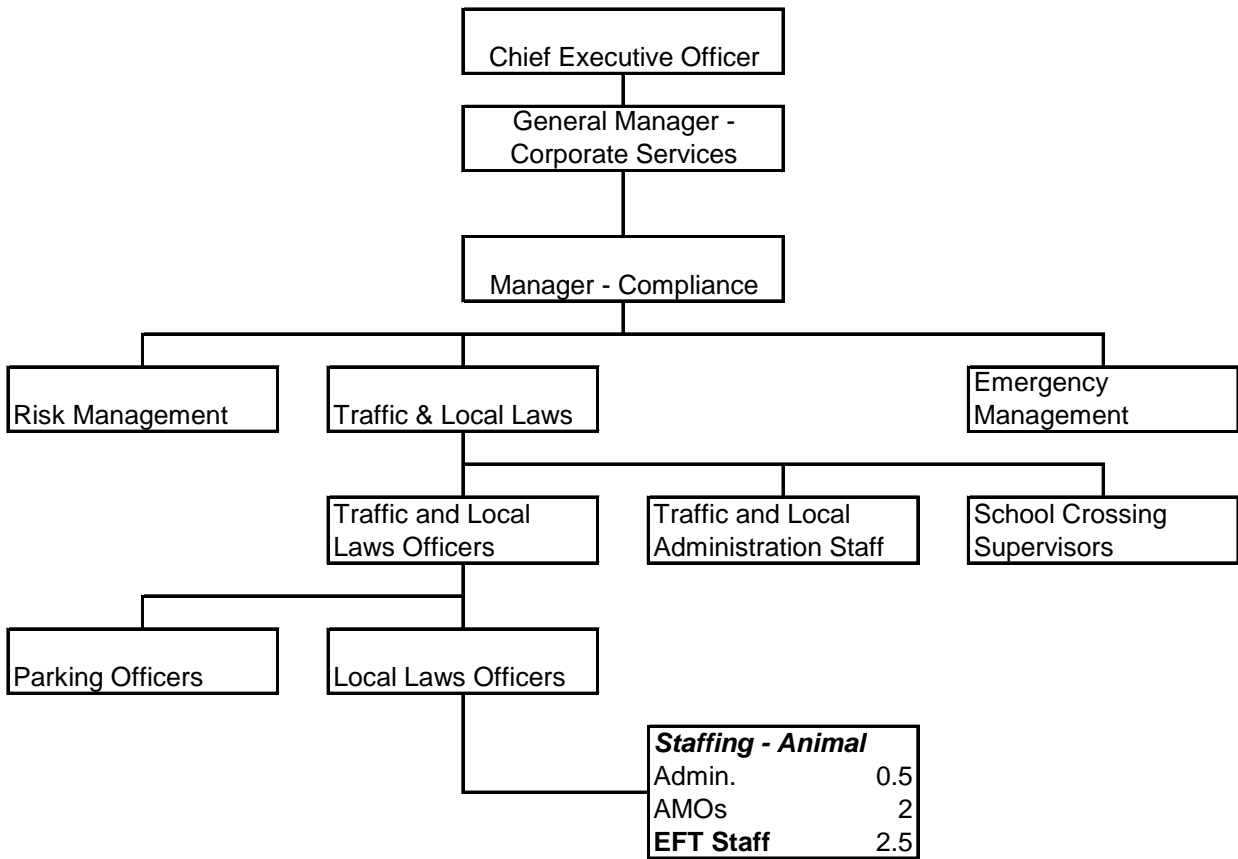
% of dogs rehoused	9%	18%
% of dogs euthanized	18%	22%
No. of impoundments (cats)	524	549
	(120 officers, 404 public)	
% of cats returned to owner	15%	5%
% of cats rehoused	27%	16.5%
% of cats euthanized	58%	78.5%

General Statistics

Average No. Complaints received per year	5803
No. animal complaints 06/07	1110
No. animal complaints per officer	278
No. Animal Businesses inspected per year	9
No animals reported to Council as lost or found	438
No. Calls received 06/07	25,879
Correspondence received 06/07	17,084
No of other animal related prosecutions 06/07	97
No of successful prosecutions for other animal related matters	97

1.6 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STAFFING AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Animal Management functions at City of Whitehorse are conducted by the Traffic and Local Laws Unit within the Compliance Department, which has responsibility for a series of Council’s compliance functions. The organisational relationship is shown below.



1.7 CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Program / Service	Service Level
Domestic Animal Identification and Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Press Releases • Annual registration management; • Reactive enforcement; • Paws for Thought annual publication • Mandatory registration of domestic animals prior to release from pound; • Annual Registration Renewals Doorknock;
Domestic animal complaints (Including dangerous dog complaints)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate attendance to reported incidents within 1 hour if threat to health. All other matters within 48 hours;
Routine street and park patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random patrols of streets and parks are regularly undertaken with extended programmed park patrols during day light savings;
Animal Pound Facility	RSPCA are contracted to provide this service and is open to the public every

- Microchipping**

 - day of the year;
 - Vouchers given to animal owners within the City of Whitehorse to access the RSPCA for reduced rates for microchipping;
 - Other providers referred to by Council;

- Domestic Animal Business Inspections**

 - Conducted annually to ensure compliance with relevant Codes of Practice;

- Dangerous, Restricted Dog inspections**

 - Conducted annually to ensure compliance with relevant provisions of the Act;
 - Programs in place to have dogs with propensity to attack declared;

- Dogs On/Off Lead**

 - 19 Dog off-lead areas established;
 - Order in place restricting dogs off lead to designated areas;
 - Dogs to be on a lead in all public areas other than designated off lead areas;
 - Dogs to be under effective control at all times;

- Prohibited Areas**

 - Order in place restricting dog access to some playgrounds and sporting fields;
 - Local Law provision prohibits dogs from entering 13 specified Wetland areas;
 - Local Law provision requiring dog owners to remove their animals faeces deposited in public places.

- Other programs, services, strategies**

 - Range of educational material developed and available, including:
 - ◇ Barking Dog Booklet;
 - ◇ Fact Sheets;
 - ◇ Brochures;
 - ◇ Website;
 - ◇ On site visits;
 - ◇ Park Patrols;
 - ◇ Return of lost animals to their owners if they can be identified and are registered;
 - ◇ Advice on responsible pet ownership.

1.8 RESULTS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

1.8.1 General

The purpose of the consultation was to seek information and gauge community expectations to assist Council to prepare this Plan and to measure community attitude to a range of issues from registration fees to extending microchipping to include existing registered dogs and cats.

In mid 2007 Council commenced the consultation process with animal welfare organisations including the RSPCA, Cat Protection Society, Lost Dogs Home, dog and cat clubs and associations, individual cat and dog owners, animal businesses and the community in general.

Additional research was also undertaken by reviewing current literature, discussing animal issues with other Council departments particularly open space use and benchmarking with other Councils.

1.8.2 Registration

It is acknowledge that non-compliance of registering dogs and cats within the community can lead to a range of problems. These include unidentifiable dogs and cats causing nuisance, inability for lost and wandering pets to be reunited with their owners, potential for increased levels of dog attacks and adverse impacts on the natural environs of the municipality.

The City of Whitehorse's pet registration levels are consistent with that of comparable Council's but lower than industry pet ownership statistics. Council has acknowledged this and will address this issue by conducting an audit of properties within the Municipality that do not have a dog or cat registered.

1.8.3 Ownership

Results from the surveys indicated that there was considerable concern about the problems caused by irresponsible pet owners, including exercising dogs off lead in on lead parks to owners not picking up after their animals. Residents perceptions in relation to Council enforcement or lack of enforcement in relation to these regulations varied from too heavy handed to being too soft in our approach.

85% of people surveyed believe that animals should be compulsory microchipped, with 68% indicating all cats and 51% of all dogs should be desexed.

1.8.3 Behaviour

Results from the survey indicated that there were substantial issues with 85% of people strongly concerned about dog attacks and dog aggression in public places, animal owner behaviour in particular the collection of dog faeces, the amount of park patrols conducted by Council Animal Management Officers and signage of parks.

While most dog attacks occur in the home, the frequency of dog aggression incidents in public places has been enough to trigger community concern. A survey conducted by the Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare found that 80% of dog attacks in public places were due to dogs not being adequately confined to the property, with most incidents occurring on the footpath or road bordering the attacking dog's property.

The next major concerns were in regard to shared open space, the management of off lead parks and bicycle tracks. The combination of shared paths cause considerable amount of concern for users and has the potential to create accidents between dogs, bike riders and other users.

The least amount of concern expressed was regarding the number of off lead and on lead areas. The survey results stated that 72% of respondents thought that the current number of designated areas for dogs on and off lead parks is well balanced.

On a positive note the survey shows that there are less cats and dogs roaming the streets now than there were five years ago and that Council is managing the process well.

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2. KEY ISSUES FOR THE CITY OF WHITEHORSE

The key platform in the identification of these issues has been the community engagement undertaken throughout this process. The outcomes of the consultation has resulted in the development of this Plan and its associated actions, which are targeted at addressing the community issues.

The key issues that form the basis of this plan have been developed from:

- Benchmarking statistics provided by State Government;
- Statistics on service requests made by residents and other City of Whitehorse customers;
- National and international research on companion animals;
- Feedback from our community;
- Submissions made by animal welfare agencies eg the Cat Protection Society, RSPCA, Victoria, Department of Primary Industry;
- Submissions made by relevant industry groups eg Australian Veterinary Association; and
- Submissions made by the community.

A précis of the key data derived from the community consultation process is detailed below. A full listing of the survey outcomes is detailed in appendix B.

Questions	Attitude of Whitehorse residents
Concerned about abandoned pets	65% strongly
Dog aggression in public places	65% strongly
How often have you been inconvenienced by cats on your property in the past 3mths	77.5% less than twice
Do you see fewer dogs wandering the streets today than 5yrs ago	74% agree
“Cat owners do not control their cats”	52% agree
What do you think of off lead parks	64.5% very good 15% good
Do you think that all dogs/cats should be microchipped?	85.5% yes
Do you think all dogs/cats should be desexed?	51% yes 68% yes
Are you concerned about dog droppings	76% yes
Are Council's registration fees fair	85% yes

The key issues identified are:

- Registration and Identification;
- Perceived low registration rates (compared to Industry data);
- Desexing cats and dogs;
- Microchipping cats and dogs;
- Dog attacks;
- Barking dogs / noise;
- Management of dog off-lead areas eg patrol frequency, signage, facilities etc;
- Confinement of cats and the prevention of dogs wandering at large;
- Community education; and
- Care for animals in crisis.

Each of these matters is discussed in more detail below.

2.1 REGISTRATIONS AND IDENTIFICATION

The Domestic (Feral & Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 requires that all dogs and cats over the age of three months must be registered with the Council in the area where they are normally are kept. Council is constantly seeking ways to increase the number of dogs and cats that are registered, as there are significant advantages to the pet owner.

The benefit of registration includes lost and stray animals being identified as owned resulting in them being reunited with their family at the earliest possible time reducing stress for both the pet and the family members. As can be seen by the following chart, the City of Whitehorse over the past three years has a higher return rate than the State average in reuniting pets with their families. Much of this can be attributed to identification being worn by the animal.

Yr	Dogs impounded	Returned to owner	Rehoused	% saved	Cats impounded	Returned to owner	Rehoused	% saved
04 - 05	742 (377+365)	450 (61%)	74 (10%)	71%	255 (51+204)	36 (14%)	207 (81%)	95%
05 - 06	658 (427+231)	512 (78%)	85 (13%)	91%	469 (153+343)	29 (6%)	207 (44%)	50%
06 - 07	476 (278+198)	348 (73%)	45 (9%)	82%	524 (120+404)	51 (15%)	145 (27%)	42%

2.2 LOW REGISTRATION RATES

The rate of registration in City of Whitehorse for dogs is similar with like Councils across the State. However cat registration levels are higher (for 06/07-registration year). The City of Whitehorse in 2007 had 14,368 dogs and 7,321 cats registered (as at 30/06/2007), compared to 14,402 dogs and 5,126 cats at like councils (average).

Currently the City of Whitehorse has approximately 18,000 residential properties with either a dog or cat registered to it. A recent animal ownership census that generated an additional 3,000 registrations has indicated that the registration rates in the City of Whitehorse are well above the state average.

The census also contradicted industry research that indicates that the ratio is closer to 18 in every 100 properties having a dog and 12 in every 100 having a cat. Applying this formula to the City of Whitehorse, the anticipated registration rates would equate to 26,460 dogs and 17,640 cats well in advance of the current figures.

Experience throughout Victoria has shown that higher levels of registration generally lead to higher levels of responsible pet ownership. Councils with higher registration rates generally experience lower levels of complaint about animals.

As indicated earlier, registered animals can be returned to their owners far more quickly and therefore more cost effectively. This is because Animal Management Officer's can instantly identify the animal from its tag/microchip and then contact the owner to arrange immediate return, without the need for the animal to be taken to a pound. Being able to return animals in this way provides cost savings for both the pet owner and Council.

Having the ability to reunite a dog or cat with its owner, through the wearing of a Council tag and from having the pet micro-chipped, not only reduces the stress and anxiety of the pet owner but that of the animal as well.

It should be noted however, that microchipping of cats and dogs supports the animal registration process and does not replace it.

When the State Government established the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994, they recognised that the cost to councils of providing animal management services would significantly increase. Registration fees contribute to the overall cost of providing Animal Management Services within the City of Whitehorse.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 3.

2.3 DESEXING DOGS AND CATS

Cats and dogs in the City of Whitehorse are not required to be desexed unless they are a restricted breed dog or a specified type.

However, unwanted litters are an issue facing the community and highlighted in the community survey where 65% of respondents were concerned about abandoned pets. These unwanted pets are often the result of indiscriminate breeding.

Eleven animal welfare organisations have formed the Cat Crisis Coalition to address this issue. The Coalition has written to Council along with other key stakeholders to support the introduction of compulsory desexing of dogs and cats. Conversely, the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd, Victorian Division and Dogs Victoria have written to all Victorian Councils opposing the introduction of compulsory desexing.

Local survey results show that the majority of the community support the compulsory desexing of dogs (51%) and cats (68%). Currently 92% of cats registered with the City of Whitehorse are desexed while only 62% of dogs are desexed.

The State Government in recognition of this issue has introduced legislation that amends the Act and enables Councils to make an order requiring all dogs and cats in that municipality to be desexed other than those that are exempt. Section 10A(1) of the Act now states *“A Council may resolve that it will not, after a specified future date, register or renew the registration of a dog or cat unless the dog or cat is desexed or is exempted under the Act from any requirement to be desexed.”*

The Act specifies a series of exemptions for cats and dogs, including dogs and cats that are:

- used as part of a registered domestic animal breeding establishment;
- if the owner is a current member of a recognised organisation and the animal is registered with that applicable Organisation i.e. Victorian Canine Association, Feline Control Council (Victoria);
- a guard dog that is a declared dangerous dog;
- or on medical grounds.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 2 and will include community engagement to further determine the effectiveness of such a strategy..

2.4 MICROCHIPPING CATS AND DOGS

All dogs and cats unless specifically exempt, over the age of three months, must be microchipped when being registered for the first time with that Council, including dogs and cats being transferred from another Council.

Section 10C of the Act states in part that a Council must not register a dog or cat unless the dog or cat has been implanted with a prescribed permanent identification device or was registered with that Council in the past 12 months.

Similarly to the previous section (2.3), section 10C (3) of the Act now allows for Councils to resolve that all dogs and cats kept in that municipality are microchipped irrespective of their registration status or history. The Act also provides Council with the ability to exempt a class of dog or cat from any requirement to be implanted with a microchip for the purposes of the renewal of registration

This issue is highlighted in the community survey with 85.5% of respondents supporting the notion of compulsory microchipping. To address this issue, Initiative 3 proposes to investigate further this aspect.

2.5 DOG ATTACKS

Statistically dog attacks occur predominately in and around the family home including the pavement in front of the home. Dog attacks are potentially one of the most serious matters facing the community and Animal Management Officers.

As a result, Council's procedure for dealing with dog attacks is a priority and officers respond immediately to ensure any risk or potential risk to the community is minimised.

The Whitehorse community have also identified dog aggression as an issue that requires addressing and was raised as a significant issue in the community survey with 65% of people concerned regarding dog aggression in public places.

All dog owners should be encouraged to confine their dogs to their property unless they are under effective control and to take their dog to a recognised obedience training school. This introduces basic training that helps the owner understand his or her responsibilities and importantly helps with the socialisation of the dog and minimises aggressive tendencies.

Animal Management Officers place high importance on dogs being under effective control at all times by being on a lead or similar when in public places or being confined to their property to minimise risk to the community.

Council adopted an Order under the Act that requires all dogs to be on a lead at all times when in the community other than when being exercised in designated off lead areas.

A list of Council's 19 off lead parks is attached in appendix D. Regular exercise in off lead areas is important for reducing the incidence of aggression in dogs as it helps to socialise dogs around people and other dogs.

Residents should be aware that every dog has the capacity to attack or bite. Children should be supervised around dogs at all times. Dog owners should be made aware of the potential implications if their dog bites. These could result in any of the following:

- Court fines with/or without convictions recorded;
- On the spot Infringements issued;
- Destruction of the dog;
- Declaring the dog a 'Dangerous Dog';
- Declaring the dog a 'Menacing Dog'; and
- Placing conditions on the owner for the keeping of the dog.

It should be noted that there is trauma to all concerned in a dog attack, not only for the victim but the owner of the dog as well as the animal involved especially if it is held in the pound for a long period pending Court action.

Where children are involved the trauma could last a lifetime.

The above scenarios can also apply where a dog has attacked or bitten another animal.

All primary school children in the municipality can receive instruction in how to behave around dogs through the Bureau of Animal Welfare's Responsible Pet School Program or by the schools contacting Council. This is particularly important for the children who don't have any experience with dogs.

The program teaches children how to act around a dog, what you should do if you own a dog and key safety tips.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 4.

2.6 BARKING DOGS/ NOISE

Barking dog complaints have increased in recent years with the rising incidence of pets left alone during the day, increases in housing density and declining levels of tolerance generally.

Excessive barking is caused by but not limited to:

- Separation anxiety;
- Boredom;
- External stimuli (e.g. passers by, other dogs barking, cats; and
- Communication.

Often the owner is not home to hear or stop excessive barking. Council has procedures for dealing with barking dog complaints including advice to the dog owner, a checklist to follow and forms for officers' use to complete investigations.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 9.

2.7 MANAGEMENT OF DOG OFF- LEAD AREAS

Community feed back was very strong in requesting more and clearer signage in parks to delineate on/off lead areas.

There was also clear feedback that residents would like to see Animal Management Officer's more often in the parks and off-lead areas and would like to see equipment in parks that dispense bags for picking up dog droppings.

Experience across Victoria has shown that off-lead areas are generally well supported by residents and dog owners and that they do not lead to increases in the incidence of dog attack/rush or animal escape.

The existing requirement for all dogs to be on lead at all times in public places is well accepted by most residents highlighting the need to continually promote and advertise

the designated off lead areas and encourage responsible pet ownership.

However, concern has been raised regarding developing a strategy to deal with the problem of dogs within Council's Public Golf Course (Morack Golf Course). Problems associated with dogs accessing this area include dog faeces in bunkers as well as on the course in general, the possibility of either a dog or owner being hit with a golf ball from golfer's being unaware of their presence and potential resultant litigation and damage to bunkers and turf surfaces.

It was also suggested that Council consider designating a dog Off Lead Park within the municipality for the purpose of developing it into an exercise park for dogs, which would be fully fenced, stimulate dog activity and provide a safe environment for patrons.

Council's Community Local Law requires that all pet owners carry a bag to collect their pet's faeces deposited in a public place. Research on bag dispensers has indicated that they are often vandalised and do not meet the need of the community.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 11.

2.8 COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Education was raised on a number of occasions in the community survey results. Community members indicated that there should be a strong emphasis on education and it needs to occur at a range of levels including schools, face-to-face and via other mediums such as mail outs, newspaper articles, internet etc.

In general, community feed back supported the additional education activities proposed in Section 3.3 of this plan however, it was stressed that these activities need to occur on a regular basis through a range of media. Council will restructure the working day of Animal Management Officer's programming patrols in on and off lead parks to improve our presence and enable an increase of face to face community education and promotion of responsible animal ownership. Traditionally park patrols have been undertaken on a random basis with an enforcement focus.

Those owners found to be not complying with Council's Orders and other legislative requirements may be initially issued with advice on our expectations of responsible pet ownership (as part of our education program to improve people's awareness of Council's regulations and to encourage voluntary compliance).

Council education strategy also includes articles in local newspapers and bulletins, having a stall at the Spring Festival, providing literature to residents and veterinarians, personal support to residents and promotion at Council Service Centres.

This issue is addressed in Initiatives 1, 5, 6 & 8.

2.9 SERVICES/FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY OR DISABLED PET OWNERS

Council's current range of animal management services does not have specific programs designed to benefit the elderly or disabled members of our community. In the survey it was suggested a number of matters that Council should consider. These included:

- establishing a volunteer service to assist elderly/disabled people with the care of their animals e.g. exercise, visits to the vet etc.;
- establishing a Pets as Therapy program – pets are taken to elderly citizens centres, aged care homes etc, to interact with people who can no longer care for animals full-time.

These suggestions are worth considering, as some are already available in other municipalities. The initiative is detailed in Appendix A of this Plan to further research these concepts with a view to implementing them, wherever practicable.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 16.

2.10 CONFINEMENT OF CATS AND THE PREVENTION OF DOGS WANDERING AT LARGE

Dogs that wander at large contribute to a significant proportion of dog management problems with the majority of dog attacks in public being the result of inadequate confinement.

Dog owners should be encouraged to maintain fencing to a level that securely confines their dog. Design guidelines for pet friendly housing and fencing are available and promoted by Council to encourage adequate confinement and its benefits.

To provide a capacity to ensure fencing is adequate, a review of the Local Law provisions maybe required. This initiative is detailed in Appendix A.

The Act makes provision for Councils to issue orders confining cats to their owners' properties. The provision is flexible enough to also allow confinement to be time limited e.g. *'cats must be confined to their owner's property between the hours of sunset and sun rise each day* or area specific.

Since this provision became available, a number of councils have implemented such orders. Anecdotal evidence on the impact of such controls introduced by the former Shire of Sherbrooke saw an increase in the survival rate of young lyrebirds in Sherbrooke Forest, a reduction in the number of cat related injured nocturnal animals being brought to shelters and a marked decline in the presence of cats in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. This occurred within 12 months of the controls being introduced.

Further, advice from councils who have introduced limited controls in this regard have indicated improvement in owner responsibility ensuring cats are confined and identified. In the small number of cases where unconfined cats had been able to be matched with owners, they were provided information on the requirements of responsible cat ownership.

A draw back of such requirements is the difficulty in capturing wandering cats particularly since most reported wanderings occur at night and the level of the unowned cat population.

To achieve this, public engagement through community education is required that will encourage cat confinement and promote its benefits. A number of options are

available including:

- Establishing cat runs on the property;
- Confining the cats to the home;
- Establishing cat proof fencing;
- Training.

At this point in time consideration is not being given to introducing a blanket cat curfew however, considering the sensitive nature of some of our wetlands and other natural environs within the municipality, Council may consider an Order banning cats and dogs from some of these sensitive environments.

Another consideration raised was establishing controls that restrict the movements of cats at night.

This issue is addressed in Initiatives 5, 6 & 15.

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3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Through engaging with our community, Council seeks to improve the working, living and recreational environments of our municipality by providing a range of services and facilities that meet or exceed community expectations. Council will provide a range of programs in relation to animal management which:

- Creates an environment where people and pets can peacefully co-exist within the community;
- Recognises the important value of pets in developing health and well being;
- Informs and educates the community about the needs of companion animals and promotes responsible pet ownership; and
- Ensures that the needs of the wider community are reflected through Council's Domestic Animal Management plans, policies and procedures.

3.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Whitehorse's animal management group aspire for customer satisfaction through education, mediation and excellence

3.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The targets in this plan will set out Council's plan for service provision over the next three years. They will be reported against at fixed intervals, as set out in each Key Performance Indicator (KPI) shown in section 5.2.

The key outcomes for each year will then be summarised and reported in Council's Annual Report. A report will also be forwarded to the State Government each year detailing our progress with the plan.

Targets and KPI's may also be reflected in individual performance plans of relevant staff.

4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT 26

4.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT 26

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4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

This section sets out Council's strategic response to each of the matters detailed in the Act as mandatory elements.

The community surveying undertaken identified a number of clear actions that the residents of City of Whitehorse would like to see implemented. These included continued and improved education strategies that are supported by the initiatives detailed following.

The community surveying also identified the need for planning and exploring further potential for improvement and enhancement of the initiatives detailed in Appendix A. This can be demonstrated for example where in the community survey 52% of respondents raised concerns over the control of cats. This issue has been addressed in the Plan by a number of initiatives including initiative 2 where a review of research will be undertaken to determine the extent of stray and unwanted animals, initiative 3 that will investigate options to improve pet identification, initiative 6 that promotes the benefits of ownership and initiative 15 that considers the introduction of specific cat controls.

Whilst some of the new programs and initiatives as set out in appendix A will require additional funding, it is clear that there is an expectation that these programs will be implemented. Animal registration fees are the primary source of funding and this may be supplemented in the first instance by a doorknock program conducted in late 2007, covering the entire municipality that identified an additional 1,500 registrations.

Animal Management Officers have and will continue to input into Council's Open Space Strategy and other related plans particularly in dealing with the issue of animal and human interaction along shared pathways and multi use recreational reserves within the municipality. An important issue identified in the community survey.

4.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council's objective is to ensure that all staff involved in Animal Management has the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work.

4.1.1 Council's current Animal Management Officer Training and Development activities include:

- Certificate IV in Government Statutory Compliance or similar;
- Animal handling training;
- Dealing with aggressive customers and personal safety training;
- Customer Service training;
- Various functional training including investigation; and
- Handling and treat injured animals.

4.1.2 Planned Programs and Initiatives include:

- Encouraging officers to undertake and complete Certificate IV training;
- Regular animal management and handling training;
- First Aid for animals and transportation of animals;

- Ongoing training in dealing with the community; and
- Personal safety.

This issue is addressed in Initiative 12.

4.2 ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP – COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The objective is to encourage people to manage pets in a way that protects the health and welfare of the animal, maximises the companion benefits of their pet and minimises potential for nuisance or harm to others.

This is a key element that identified in the stakeholder engagement process and underpins the entire plan.

4.2.1 Current/Ongoing Activities

Council's current and ongoing education activities and programs are aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership include:

- Education - media and pamphlets;
- Promotion of microchipping;
- Attending schools and pre-schools in conjunction with the Responsible Schools Pet Ownership Program or as requested by schools / pre schools;
- Park patrols;
- Animal desexing assistance to pensioners; and
- Animal management advice to residents.

Planned Programs and Initiatives include:

- Ongoing media campaigns in the Whitehorse News and local newspapers;
- Brochures supplied by the Bureau of Animal Welfare made available at Customer Service Centres and from other Council officers;
- Develop publications in other languages;
- Ongoing microchipping programs and support;
- Promote responsible pet ownership program not only to schools and preschools but also to the community;
- Establish a dedicated AMO team;
- Develop designated Animal Management vehicles;
- Responsible pet ownership artwork on animal rescue vehicles;
- Proactive park patrols on foot and bicycle; and
- Develop and implement an improved web site.

4.2.2 Identification and Registration

Council's objective is to maximise the number of registered and identifiable domestic animals.

Current identification and registration activities include:

- Random door knocking through out the year;
- Media campaign focusing on registrations; and
- Participation in State Government's pet registration incentive scheme.

Planned Programs and Initiatives include:

- In partnership with adjacent municipalities, consider a annual regional Pet Expo;
- Continue media campaign including Council's own publications.

4.2.3 Compliance And Enforcement — Local Laws And Orders

Council's objective is to achieve its core purpose in animal management by effectively managing domestic animal laws, orders and regulations.

Council's current enforcement provisions include:

- Council Order No.2 made on the 4 December 2000 that requires dogs to be on a lead at all times in public places unless in a designated off lead park, restricts dog access to playgrounds and sporting fields and designates 19 dog off lead parks;
- Restriction on the number of dogs and cats that can be kept on a property without a permit;
- Provision to exempt dogs from entering specified environmentally sensitive wetland areas;
- A series of Local Law requirements in relation to housing dogs and cats; and
- Requirements for animal faeces collection.

Planned Programs and Initiatives include:

- Reviewing dog off lead areas to ensure they meet community needs;
- Monitoring compliance of dogs on lead in public areas;
- Reviewing Local Law provisions;
- Developing accurate recording mechanisms to record the various types of complaints and issues received by Council in relation to dogs and cats;
- Establish a detailed reporting system on dog attacks;
- Consider introducing cat restrictions on Council managed environmentally sensitive areas;
- Consider banning dogs from Council managed golf courses; and
- Consider establish fencing requirements for dogs.

4.2.4 Domestic Animal Businesses

Council's objective is to work in partnership with domestic animal businesses to promote better education within the community in relationship to responsible pet management and ownership.

Council currently has 9 registered Domestic Animal Businesses within the municipality. Council's programs/activities are designed to work with these businesses and includes annual checks for compliance with the relevant Codes of Practice.

Planned Programs and Initiatives will include the possibility of workshops with domestic animal business owner/operators to improve compliance and promote responsible pet ownership particularly in regard to notifying Council of the sale of any cat or dog.

4.2.5 Declared Dogs

The Domestic (Feral & Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 has introduced legislation that relates specifically to dogs that have a propensity to attack. Part 3 Division 3 of the Act establishes specific controls for dogs that are declared as Dangerous, Menacing or are a restricted breed dog.

A declared dangerous dog is a dog that has:

- Caused death or serious injury to a person or animal;
- A menacing dog that has been issued 2 or more infringements;
- Has been declared a dangerous dog by another authorised authority;
- Has been trained to attack; or
- Is a guard dog guarding non residential property.

A declared menacing dog is a dog that has:

- Rushed at or chased a person;
- Been declared a menacing dog by another authorised authority.

The Act defines these categories and also provides for exemptions for Dangerous and Menacing dog declarations. An example of the exemptions includes a dog being teased or if a person was trespassing.

Restricted breed dogs are those dogs whose importation into Australia is prohibited under the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations. These breeds are Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Toso and American Pit Bull Terrier or Pit Bull Terrier.

It should be noted that the restricted breed category does not apply to cross breeds of the aforementioned dog breeds.

Councils are charged with the responsibility of ensuring owners of declared dogs keep their dogs in accordance of the restrictions imposed by the Act and its Regulations.

Council's objective is to minimise the risks of dog attacks in the community Whitehorse City Council currently has 2 declared dangerous dogs, 7 restricted breed dogs and 7 dogs declared as menacing. Programs/activities are aimed at minimising the risk to the broader community from declared dangerous, restricted breed and menacing dogs. This includes undertaking inspections of non residential areas to identify dogs on premises used as guard dogs and follow up inspections of current known dangerous/restricted breed dogs for continued compliance with legislative requirements.

Programs and Initiatives include:

- Actively patrolling all commercial and industrial areas to identify declared dogs on premises;
- Ensure all declared dogs are recorded on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry;
- Ensure all declared dangerous/restricted dogs premises are audited annually for compliance with legislative requirements; and
- Provide owners of menacing dogs with information regarding responsible pet ownership.

It should be noted that compared to like Council's, the number of dogs declared dangerous or menacing within the City of Whitehorse is at the lower end of the scale. These issues are addressed in Initiatives 1, 5, 6, & 8.

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5.2 REVIEW CYCLE/DATE FOR THIS PLAN 32



5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 OUR PERFORMANCE AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Council will monitor the performance of animal management services detailed in this plan on a quarterly basis and implement reporting mechanisms in line with the requirements of the Act.

5.1.2 Performance Indicators

	KPI's: (indicative)	Current (2007)	Target (2010)
1	Dog Registration rate: (% Dogs registered/estimated dog population) (See appendix 'C')	54% (14,368)	59% (15,610)
2	Cat Registration rate: (% cats registered/estimated cat population) (See appendix 'C')	41% (7,321)	46% (8,114)
3	Enforcement Success Rate: (% successful prosecutions/total prosecutions)	90%	98%
4	Reduction in Dog Complaints: (Number of dog complaints per 1,000 population)	7.6	7.3
5	Dog Attacks: (Number of dog attacks causing injury per 1,000 population)	0.8	0.6
6	Dog Reclaim Rate (% total dogs reclaimed/total dogs impounded)	73%	78%
7	Dog Rehousing Rate: (% total dogs rehoused/total dogs impounded)	9.5%	11.5%
8	Cat Rehousing Rate: (% total cats rehoused/total cats impounded)	27.7%	30%
9	Cat Reclaim Rate: (% total cats reclaimed/total cats impounded)	9.7%	10.5%
10	Declared dog Compliance Rates: (Number declared/number of audits)	100%	100%
11	Domestic Animal Business Compliance Rates: (Number registered/Number compliant/Number of audits)	100%	100%

5.2 REVIEW CYCLE/DATE FOR THIS PLAN

The KPI's within the DAMP will be reviewed every six months by the animal management team. Should there be any issues that fall out of those reviews they will be reported to the General Manager – Corporate Services.

As stated previously the reporting of this plan is undertaken on a yearly basis and the results submitted to the State Government. This is a three year plan with a new plan developed in the third year of the current plan.

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APPENDIX A ACTION PLAN

New Initiatives, Programs, Service or Objective	Actions	Who Is Responsible	Timeframe	Resources Required
<p>Initiative 1</p> <p>Raise awareness of what is involved in being a responsible pet owner</p>	<p>Ongoing and regular media campaigns including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's publication around Whitehorse; • Brochures supplied by the Bureau of Animal Welfare made available at Customer service Centres and from officers; • Quarterly newspaper features; • Develop publication in other languages. 	<p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Ongoing microchipping program and support;</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Extend the promotion of responsible pet ownership programs to schools and preschools in addition to community groups and prospective pet owners;</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>2008/09</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Develop a more informative and improved Web page that the general public can access with informative links</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>2008/09</p>	<p>Within existing budget</p>

<p>Initiative 2</p> <p>Develop strategies to ensure cats and dogs kept in the City of Whitehorse are cared for and wanted.</p>	<p>Review research to determine the extent of stray and unwanted animals in the City</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>2009/10</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Undertake consultation with key stakeholders on the benefit of introducing compulsory desexing of cats and dogs and prepare a report for Council consideration</p>	<p>Manager and Council</p>	<p>2009/10</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
<p>Initiative 3</p> <p>Improve identification of domestic animals.</p>	<p>Annual and random door knock;</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Annually \$1500</p>
	<p>Continue media campaign including Council's own publication;</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Continue to participate in State Government pet registration incentive scheme.</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p>
	<p>Purchase additional 2 microchip scanners to enable microchipped animals to be returned to their owners quicker reducing costs to owner and Council by:</p> <p>a) Training in the effective use of scanners;</p> <p>b) Encourage community to microchip their dogs and cats;</p> <p>c) Equip animal management and</p>	<p>Manager</p>	<p>2009/10</p>	<p>\$4000</p>

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL – DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

	<p>after hours vehicles with microchip scanners to assist in reuniting lost animals with their owners.</p> <p>Introduction of lifetime tags by benchmark other Council's to gauge the effectiveness of lifetime tags;</p> <p>Undertake consultation with key stakeholders on the benefit of introducing compulsory microchipping of cats and dogs and prepare a report for Council consideration;</p> <p>Examine the introduction of an annual Pet Expo in Whitehorse.</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager and Council</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>2010/11</p> <p>2010/11</p> <p>2010/11</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Funding of approx \$6000</p>
<p>Initiative 4</p> <p>Reduce the incidences of Dog attacks and dog rushes in the municipality.</p>	<p>Continued promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership Program;</p> <p>Prosecution of dog attacks and utilise the local media to report the outcomes of prosecutions to the broader community.</p> <p>Establish a Dog attack register to identify and manage dogs that have a propensity to attack.</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>2009/10</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p>

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<p>Initiative 5</p> <p>Promote the health and wellbeing of adequate housing for cats and dogs.</p>	Promotion of responsible confinement of cats and dogs;	Manager	On going	Within budget framework
	Encourage dog and cat owners to confine their animals to their property;	Manager	On going	Funding of \$3000
	Enforcement of Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994;	Manager	Ongoing	Within budget framework
	Encourage cat owners to confine their cats to the home especially at night;	Manager	2009/10	Funding of \$3000
	Investigate the introduction of a Local Law amendment requiring properties housing dogs to be adequately fenced to contain their pets.	Manager	2010/11	Within budget framework
<p>Initiative 6</p> <p>Promote the benefits of cat ownership.</p>	Continued promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership Program including confinement of cats particularly at night to reduce the incidence of injured animals;	Manager	On going	Within budget framework
	To encourage those persons who feed/look after unowned or community cats to take full responsibility and become responsible pet owners.	Manager	2008/09	Within budget framework

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<p>Initiative 7</p> <p>Enhance the welfare of dogs and cats.</p>	<p>Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of cat and dog ownership throughout the municipality;</p> <p>Lobby the State Government to ban the use of dogs as guard dogs in light of the alternatives available.</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>2010/11</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p>
<p>Initiative 8</p> <p>Improve community safety.</p>	<p>Encourage owners of domestic animals become more responsible pet owners by enhancing the safety of the community by their dogs being on lead when being exercised and under effective control in off lead areas;</p> <p>Reviewing shared pathways within off lead areas to enhance the safety of community and dogs.</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>2008/09</p> <p>2010/11</p>	<p>Funding of \$2000</p> <p>Within budget framework</p>
<p>Initiative 9</p> <p>Reduce the impact of barking dogs on the community.</p>	<p>Education of the community on the issue of barking dogs highlighting some of the reasons for the behaviour including dogs becoming bored in its environment;</p> <p>Develop information sheets on the issue of “Should I Own a Dog”</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>2009/10</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p>

	<p>detailing the circumstances when dog ownership is inappropriate;</p> <p>Utilise sector best practice to deal with the barking dog issue. (This may include involving the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria).</p>	Manager	2010/11	Within budget framework
<p>Initiative 10</p> <p>Promote socialisation and dog training.</p>	<p>Provide information for use by the community to encourage dog owners to take their pets to puppy socialisation and dog obedience training;</p>	Manager	2009/10	Within budget framework
	<p>Training brochures for these activities to be available from Council.</p>	Manager	2009/10	Funding of \$5000
<p>Initiative 11</p> <p>Promotion of the benefits of dog exercise and socialisation</p>	<p>Increased seasonal monitoring and presence of on and off lead parks;</p>	Manager	2008/09	Increased overtime of approx. \$10,000
	<p>Consider prohibiting dogs from public golf course;</p>	Manager	2009/10	Within budget framework
	<p>Review dog off lead Orders to ensure they meet community needs.</p>	Manager	2010/11	Within budget framework

<p>Initiative 12</p> <p>Improve knowledge of Animal Management Officers.</p>	<p>Staff encouraged to undertake and complete Certificate IV training in relevant field;</p> <p>Undertake bi-annual animal management handling training;</p> <p>Undertake ongoing training in dealing with the community.</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>	<p>Within budget framework</p> <p>\$2000</p> <p>\$5000</p>
<p>Initiative 13</p> <p>Flexible service delivery arrangements to meet community needs .</p>	<p>Increase after hour patrols of parks and investigations by:</p> <p>a) Roster changes to ensure coverage outside core hours;</p> <p>b) Provide information on display boards in parks regarding use of off lead parks;</p> <p>c) Provide on site advisory service in relation to responsible pet ownership;</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p> <p>Manager</p>	<p>2008/09</p> <p>2008/09</p> <p>2009/10</p>	<p>Increase in overtime of approx \$7000.</p> <p>Within budget framework</p> <p>Within budget framework</p>

WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL – DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

	d) Improved advice to the community	Manager	2008/09	Within budget framework
Initiative 14 Restructure Local Laws Unit to establish dedicated resources to better address animal management issues.	Continued training in animal handling;	Manager	2008/09	Budget initiative proposal
	Consider merits of establishing a dedicated animal management unit;	Manager	2009/10	Within budget framework
	Development of two special purpose fitted vehicles. .	Manager	2009/10	\$10,000
Initiative 15 Introduce controls that provide protection for the environment and improves the health of cats	Consider introducing orders to prohibit cats from environmentally sensitive areas in reserves	Council	2010/11	\$5000
	Consider introducing night time cat curfews	Council	2010/11	\$5000
Initiative 16 Provide assistance to infirmed residents to allow them to continue the enjoyment of pet ownership.	Seek funding to assist recipients of HACC services. This will enable Council to provide services that will assist infirmed members of our community to care for their pets	Manager	2008/09	Within budget framework

APPENDIX B SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Questions	Attitude of Whitehorse residents	Initiative in Plan	Attitude of like/similar council's
Concerned about abandoned pets	65% strongly	2 & 3	73% strongly
Dog aggression in public places	65% strongly	4 & 8	82 % strongly
Dogs exercised in off lead parks	40% strongly	8 & 11	27% strongly
Cats trespass on private property	39% strongly	6 &15	50% strongly
How often have you seen dogs wandering in the past 3mths	67% less than twice	1	42% less than twice
How often have you been inconvenienced by a roaming dog in the past 3mths	87% less than twice	5	20% less than twice
How often have you been inconvenienced by cats on your property in the past 3mths	77.5% less than twice	15	20% less than twice
Do you see fewer dogs wandering the streets today than 5yrs ago	74% agree	5	46% agree
“Dog owners do not control their dogs”	38 % agree	8	23% agree
“Cat owners do not control their cats”	52% agree	15	26% agree
Have you used Council's Animal Management services in the past 12mths	82% no	12, 13 & 14	n/a
How often have you seen an Animal Management Officer	79% never	12 & 13	68% never
What do you think of off lead parks	64.5% very good 15% good	11	35 % very good n/a
Do you think that all dogs should be microchipped?	85.5% yes	3	77% yes
Do you think all dogs should be desexed?	51% yes	2	n/a
Do you think all cats should be microchipped?	85.5% yes	3	77% yes
Do you think all cats should be desexed?	68% yes	2	n/a
Are you concerned about dog droppings	76% yes	1	n/a

Are Council's registration fees fair	85% yes	N/A	n/a
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Benchmarked Councils were Banyule, Brimbank, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah and Nillumbik.

Additional Comments from the survey

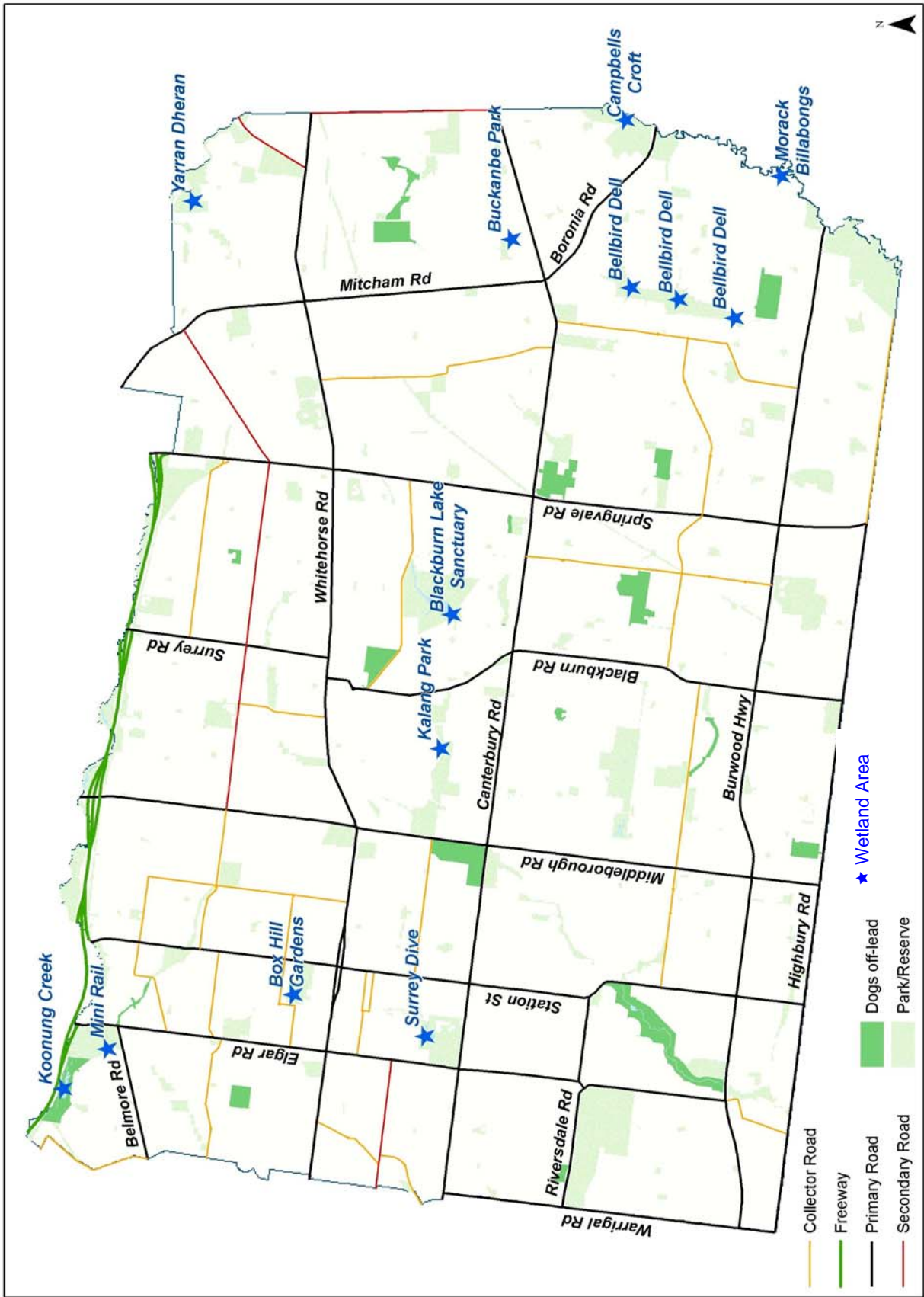
- Concerned about dogs wandering;
- Inconvenienced by dogs barking & yelping, going on garden, on driveway, running in front of car, dogs rushing at people;
- Inconvenienced by cats digging up lawn, using yard as a toilet, cats fighting at night annoying dogs;
- Didn't know Council had an animal management service;
- Not enough effort to force owners to comply, should fine instead of warning;
- Dog owners should have lead free areas where they can exercise their dogs. Existing areas clash with non dog owner facilities and dogs cannot be exercise freely;
- Dogs should be desexed except for licensed breeders;
- Dog owners need to look after dogs, keep them on own property;
- Education for dog and cat owner should be improved. Council should provide quarterly newsletters specific to pet owners;
- Look at problem of shared pathways in off lead parks;
- Need to promote responsible pet ownership better;
- Need to issue fines instead of warning, Council is too soft; and
- Create a dog exercise park fully fenced with play equipment for dogs.

APPENDIX C LIST OF OFF LEAD PARKS

Off Lead Areas	Melref	Off Lead Areas	Melref
Morton Park, Blackburn	48 A10	Glen Valley Reserve, Blackburn	62 D1
Nicoll Park, Blackburn North	48 D7	Blackburn South Link, Holland-Royton Street Blackburn South	61 J5
Hunter Knoll, Blackburn South	61 K2	Sparks Reserve, Box Hill	47 F12
Koonung Creek Reserve, Box Hill North	46 K3	Mont Albert Reserve, Box Hill North	47 A7
Bushy Creek Reserve West, Elgar-Woodhouse Box Hill	47 C5	Gardiners Creek Reserve, Burwood	61 C4
Ballyshanassy Reserve, Burwood East	61 F5	Davy Lane Reserve, Forest Hill	62 F5
Mahoney's Reserve, Forest Hill	62 C4	Forest Hill Reserve, Forest Hill	62 E2
Simpsons Park, Mitcham	49 A10	Somers Trail, Mitcham	49 B11
Boisdale Street Reserve, Surrey Hills	60 J2	Terra Park, Vermont South	62 J7
Masons Road Retarding Basin	62 C1		

APPENDIX D DESIGNATED WETLAND AREAS

Water Body	Melref	Description
Koonung Creek	47 A3	Constructed wetlands adjacent to Koonung Creek, just west of large red pedestrian bridge over Freeway
Mini Rail	47 B4	Fencing already in place restricting dog access
Box Hill Gardens	47 C8	Ornamental lake in garden setting – constructed
Surrey Drive	47 B11	Storm water fed lake in park setting
Kalang Park	47 J11	Wetland billabongs adjacent to Gardiners Creek
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary	47 B12	Melbourne Water retarding structure(the lake) & wetlands on inlets
Buckanbe Park	63 A1	Old farm dam
Bellbird Dell	62 J6	Small wetland on barrelled creek alignment
Bellbird Dell	62 J6 & 62 K4	Rock edged vinyl lined ornamental ponds on barrelled creek alignment
Bellbird Dell	62 J5	Constructed water body at bridge
Morack Billabongs	63 B7 & 63 B8	Billabongs set down adjacent to Morack Golf Course & Dandenong Creek
Yarran Dheran	49 B6	Ponds on old tip site and at top car park
Campbells Croft	63 D4	Wetland, old billabong chain adjacent to Dandenong Creek



APPENDIX E OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

- Council web page: www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au
- State Government Legislation site: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Department of Primary Industries: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

- Others:
 - www.absaustralia.com
 - www.pets.info.vic.gov.au
 - www.victorialaw.org.au
 - www.animalcare.com.au
 - www.rspca.com.au